

Application No.: 10/088,894

Docket No.: 20459-00351-US

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 21-37 remain pending in this application. Claims 21, 25, and 30 are independent. Claims 29 and 34 have been amended by this amendment to correct minor grammatical and potential antecedent basis problems. No new matter is implicated by any claim amendment.

Attached hereto is a marked up copy of the amended claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims 21-37 in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the newly pending claims and to pass this application to issue.

In the event the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues in this case, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number indicated below.

Although extensions of time are not believed to be necessary with this communication, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees or fees for excess claims, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

Respectfully submitted,

By Larry J. Hume
Larry J. Hume

Registration No.: 44,163
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036-3425
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Attorneys for Applicant

Encl: Marked up Copy of Claims

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Marked-up Copy of ClaimsIn the Claims

Please amend claims 29 and 34 as indicated:

29. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein a movement of the first and second feed chains activated by the electric motor in a direction opposite to the loading direction results in an accumulation of energy in the energy accumulator while the shell-rammer returns to a starting position,

wherein a movement of the first and second feed chains in the loading direction brings about an acceleration of the rammer and the projectile component while energy is supplied from both the electric motor and the energy accumulator.

34. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said mechanical conversion means for converting the rotational acceleration of the electric motor into a linear acceleration comprises a pinion which is driven by the electric motor, said pinion being arranged to bear against a first rack connected to the rammer,

wherein the energy accumulator comprises at least one spring and a second rack which is displaceable relative at least with respect to the first rack when the at least one spring is not in a fixed position,

wherein the energy accumulator is operatively coupled to a drive shaft of the electric motor via one or more pinions.